

County of Santa Clara
Office of the Sheriff

55 West Younger Avenue
San Jose, CA 95110
www.sccsheriff.org



April 4, 2018

Dear Community Members,

I am writing you to reaffirm the Sheriff's Office, and my personal, complete support for the County policy that prohibits cooperating with the federal government on immigration enforcement. I have always been a strong proponent of our County's policy and have been committed to demonstrating my sentiment by supporting the immigrant community through initiatives like AB 60 and through my submission of a declaration in support of the County's lawsuit against President Trump. My Office also has established one of the first Notario Fraud Units in the country that focuses on investigating unlawful immigration services that prey on our most vulnerable population.

ICE agents' unauthorized access into our correctional facilities was a circumvention of our policy by determined ICE agents and the result of human error on the part of custody staff on duty at the time of the intrusion.

Upon learning of the incident, we took immediate corrective action that included:

1. Re-issuing the standing order that prohibits the entry of ICE agents into our correctional facilities and prohibition of any cooperation with ICE agents to enforce federal immigration laws.
2. Re-training of custody staff on the policy prohibiting entry of ICE agents into our custody facilities.
3. Instituting a more robust law enforcement tracking system for all law enforcement authorized entry into our custody facilities.

Since the initial unauthorized access by ICE, ICE has attempted to re-enter our correctional facilities on nearly a daily basis. They were turned away on every occasion. Clearly, ICE agents are attempting to strengthen the federal government's case against sanctuary jurisdictions for not cooperating with enforcement of federal immigration laws. We believe our case is stronger and that our policy will withstand any scrutiny. Our training will be ongoing to ensure that staff is consistently reminded of our commitment to not cooperate with ICE.

We will continue to monitor this situation and want you to know that we value, honor and respect our immigrant community. We will stand together during these trying

times to ensure fairness, justice and respect for everyone in our community. Working together keeps our community safer.

Initially, I did not come forward with this information, because I wanted to investigate the extent of the unauthorized access so correct information could be disseminated to the community. I was sensitive to the fact that such information would unduly heighten the fear and concern that the immigrant community is already facing. I am sincerely regretful that bonds of trust are damaged, but I remain a strong advocate on behalf of immigrant families.

While I respect your right to peacefully protest, I want to provide you with accurate, up to date information that I hope you will share with the community. I look forward to partnering with you in the future to instill a sense of security in our immigrant community that we will not cooperate with ICE and I never have and will continue to be vigilant against anyone in my agency to assist ICE, in accordance with County policy.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Laurie Smith". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Laurie" being more prominent than the last name "Smith".

Laurie Smith, Sheriff